

**-s (your sister's name) and
of ... (the name of the book)****A**We use **-s** (*apostrophe + s*) mostly for people or animals:

- ☐ **Tom's** computer isn't working. (*not* the computer of Tom)
- ☐ How old are **Chris's** children? (*not* the children of Chris)
- ☐ What's (= What is) **your sister's** name?
- ☐ What's **Tom's sister's** name?
- ☐ Be careful. Don't step on **the cat's** tail.

You can use **-s** without a noun after it:

- ☐ This isn't my book. It's **my sister's**. (= my sister's book)

We use **-s** with a noun (**Tom/friend/teacher** etc.). We do not use **-s** with a long group of words. So we say:**your friend's** name*but* the name **of the woman sitting by the door**Note that we say **a woman's hat** (= a hat for a woman), **a boy's name** (= a name for a boy), **a bird's egg** (= an egg laid by a bird) etc.**B**With a *singular* noun we use **-s**:my **sister's** room (= **her** room – one sister) **Mr Carter's** house (= **his** house)With a *plural* noun (sisters, friends etc.) we put an apostrophe (') at the end of the word:**my sisters'** room (= **their** room – *two or more* sisters)**the Carters'** house (= **their** house – Mr and Mrs Carter)If a plural noun does not end in **-s** (for example **men/women/children/people**) we use **-s**:**the men's** changing room a **children's** book (= a book for children)You can use **-s** after more than one noun:**Jack and Karen's** wedding **Mr and Mrs Carter's** house**C**For things, ideas etc., we normally use **of** (... **of the water** / ... **of the book** etc.):the temperature **of the water** (*not* the water's temperature)the name **of the book** the owner **of the restaurant**Sometimes the structure *noun + noun* is possible (see Unit 80):the **water temperature** the **restaurant owner**We say **the beginning/end/middle of ...** / **the top/bottom of ...** / **the front/back/side of ...** :**the beginning of** the month (*not* the month's beginning)**the top of** the hill **the back of** the car**D**You can usually use **-s** or **of ...** for an organisation (= a group of people). So you can say:**the government's** decision *or* the decision **of the government****the company's** success *or* the success **of the company**It is also possible to use **-s** for places. So you can say:**the city's** streets **the world's** population **Italy's** prime minister**E**You can also use **-s** with time words (**yesterday** / **next week** etc.):

- ☐ Do you still have **yesterday's** newspaper?
- ☐ **Next week's** meeting has been cancelled.

In the same way, you can say **today's** / **tomorrow's** / **this evening's** / **Monday's** etc.We also use **-s** (or **-s'** with plural words) with periods of time:

- ☐ I've got **a week's** holiday starting on Monday.
- ☐ Julia has got **three weeks'** holiday.
- ☐ I live near the station – it's only about **ten minutes'** walk.

Exercises

81.1 In some of these sentences, it would be more natural to use -'s or -'. Change the underlined parts where necessary.

- 1 Who is the owner of this restaurant?
- 2 How old are the children of Chris?
- 3 Is this the umbrella of your friend?
- 4 Write your name at the top of the page.
- 5 I've never met the daughter of Charles.
- 6 Have you met the son of Helen and Dan?
- 7 We don't know the cause of the problem.
- 8 Do we still have the newspaper of last Monday?
- 9 I don't know the words of this song.
- 10 What is the cost of a new computer?
- 11 The friends of your children are here.
- 12 The garden of our neighbours is very nice.
- 13 I work on the ground floor of the building.
- 14 The hair of David is very long.
- 15 I couldn't go to the party of Katherine.
- 16 Do you know the number of the man I need to speak to?
- 17 Have you seen the car of the parents of Mike?
- 18 What's the meaning of this expression?
- 19 Do you agree with the economic policy of the government?

OK

Chris's children

81.2 What is another way of saying these things? Use -'s or -s'.

- 1 a hat for a woman a woman's hat
- 2 a name for a boy
- 3 clothes for children
- 4 a school for girls
- 5 a nest for a bird
- 6 a magazine for women

81.3 Read each sentence and write a new sentence beginning with the underlined words.

- 1 The meeting tomorrow has been cancelled.
Tomorrow's meeting has been cancelled.
- 2 The storm last week caused a lot of damage.
Last
- 3 The only cinema in the town has closed down.
The
- 4 The weather in Britain is very changeable.
.....
- 5 Tourism is the main industry in the region.
.....

81.4 Use the information given to complete the sentences.

- 1 If I leave my house at 9 o'clock and drive to the airport, I arrive at about 11.
So it's about two hours' drive from my house to the airport. (drive)
- 2 If I leave my house at 8.40 and walk to the centre, I get there at 9 o'clock.
So it's from my house to the centre. (walk)
- 3 I'm going on holiday on the 12th. I have to be back at work on the 26th.
So I've got (holiday)
- 4 I went to sleep at 3 o'clock this morning and woke up an hour later. After that I couldn't sleep. So last night I only had (sleep)